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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS FOR POSSESSION OF  
FIREARM IN FURTHERANCE OF DRUG TRAFFICKING**

**BALTIMORE, Maryland** - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that United States District Court Judge Catherine C. Blake today sentenced JACQUES WALKER, age 34, of Baltimore, Maryland to 30 years in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release after having been convicted by a jury on November 21, 2003 of illegal possession of a firearm, possession with intent to distribute marijuana and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Trial evidence showed that on the night of January 11, 2003 officers of the Baltimore City Police Department observed Walker selling a controlled dangerous substance on the 600 block of Edgewood Street in southwest Baltimore. Lookouts stationed on the street corner yelled out a warning that police were present. The alleged drug buyer fled and Walker attempted to hide. The officers arrested Walker as he came out of a large bush. Walker was searched and found to have a loaded .32 caliber handgun in his pants pocket, an extra magazine full of ammunition, \$270 in cash and a quantity of marijuana in his shirt pocket.

The case is a result of a cooperative investigation by the Baltimore City Police Department and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force, and is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael J. Leotta and Ari S. Casper.